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. . . On the 10th of December the United States Senate ratified arbitration treaties with Peru and China.

. . . The Brooklyn Public Library (26 Brevoort Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.) has prepared a list of books found in the library on International Peace, with references also to articles in periodicals. The Librarian, Mr. Frank P. Hill, writes that single copies of this list, which seems to us a most valuable one, will be sent to any of our readers who may apply for it.

. . . At the meeting of the National Grange in Washington, D. C., in November last, the following resolution, reported by the Committee on Commercial Relations, was adopted: "That a special committee, of which Mortimer Whitehead (New Brunswick, N. J., R. F. D. 6) shall be chairman, shall be appointed with a view to co-operating with other peace associations in all worthy efforts to advance the cause of universal peace."

Marquis Katsura's Message to the People of the United States.

BY REV. J. H. DE FOREST, D.D., SENDAI, JAPAN.

[Our readers will all remember the remarkable articles which we published last spring by Dr. De Forest, in refutation of the miserable slanders and misrepresentations made in this country by certain newspapers, and especially by Congressman Hobson, against the Japanese government and people in respect of their attitude toward this country. Since his recent return to Japan, where he had already spent thirty-three years, Dr. De Forest has been granted an interview with the Prime Minister, Marquis Katsura, of which he sends to Secretary Trueblood the following account. The Marquis' statements fully corroborate all that Dr. De Forest had said and written about the friendly feeling of Japan toward our country, and ought to close for all time the few remaining mouths that still persist in reiterating the falsehoods and misrepresentations. — Ed.]

On the fourth of November, just after the week of unparalleled welcome to our fleet, and the day following the review and ball given in honor of the Emperor's birthday, the Premier, General Marquis Katsura, kindly granted me an informal interview of over half an hour. Beginning with a rapid survey of his early career, His Excellency went on with a delightful cordiality, difficult to express in appropriate English, to speak of the United States substantially as follows:

"I am sixty-two years old. Of course I was deeply impressed with Commodore Perry's visit. In early manhood I had a hand in the affairs of the Restoration. At the age of twenty-three I was sent to Europe via America, when it took twenty-four days to cross the Pacific, and about forty to reach London. When in Europe it sometimes took nearly six months to get a reply from Japan. The earth, however, is just the same size it always was, but modern inventions have made it possible to go around it in a very few weeks, and the nations of the whole world are now close together, so that the great

problem is that of peace. The Pacific, that used to separate us as an impassable barrier, has now become but a little millpond. And the great nations on its shores are America, Japan, and China, who are responsible for peace in this part of the world.

"In talking of peace I am well aware that my signboard is bad;* for I am a soldier. I've been in the thick of fights and have killed a number of men. I have witnessed the horrors of war, and it makes me wretched — this bitter, cruel, mad war between human beings. From the bottom of my heart I became a man of peace, longing for nothing so much, and working for nothing so hard, as for peace. You know our history, and you know how in feudal times, when circumstances forced men to kill one another, our victorious warriors were often so heart-stricken with the blood they had shed that they shaved their heads, became Buddhist priests and entered monasteries, never again to draw the sword. And often the victors gave posthumous honors to the brave dead against whom they had fought.† It runs in us to hate war, just as your great generals Grant and Sherman did. In spite of our signboard, we long for nothing so much as for peace.

"Now that your nation and ours have been at peace for over half a century, you having been our teacher and sympathetic friend during all this time, we want above all things to deepen and make perpetual the peace between us. I have never had a doubt of the sincere friendship of the United States. Of course, there are worthless, unprincipled fellows in every country, but I'm speaking of the vast majority of your people.

"Here also in our land both government and people are absolutely one in their friendship for the United States and belief in your friendship for us. We of the Far East are responsible for peace in this part of the world, and I will guarantee that my government and people, in the years to come as in the past, will not only keep this great historic peace, but will do all that is possible to deepen and enrich this friendship of half a century. Our glad welcome to your fleet and to the Commissioners of Commerce from the Pacific Coast is but the natural expression on the part of our government and people that no misunderstandings shall weaken the glorious friendship between our two nations. You may make this known as widely as you like — that the government and people of Japan are one in their friendship for the government and people of your republic. We have adopted and put into successful practice all those precious liberties for which your people stand, and we desire to strengthen this traditional friendship beyond the possibility of its ever being broken."

The United States-Japanese Covenant.

On December first the agreement between the United States and Japan which had for some months been the subject of correspondence between Secretary Root and Ambassador Takahira was made public. The declaration — for it is a declaration rather than an agreement — sets

*Referring to his uniform as a General.

† Recently the Japanese have erected two monuments to the memory of their vanquished foes, one in Formosa, at the close of the war with China, the other, as all the world knows, to the Russians who fell at Port Arthur. Has any other nation ever done a similar thing?